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Advocate of Peace.

VOL. LXVIII.

BOSTON, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1906.

No. 10

THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY,

PUBLISHERS,

31 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

MONTHLY, ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR. TEN CENTS PER COPY

Entered at the Boston Post Office as Second Class Matter.

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The Milan Peace Congress.

The Fifteenth International Peace Congress, held at Milan, Italy, from the 13th to the 22d of September, was on the whole a very successful and encouraging meeting. It labored under the usual difficulty of the peace congresses, that arising from the difference of language and of deliberative methods, and the still greater difficulty occasioned by the dominating influence of an International Exposition. Because of the latter, the local impression made by the Congress on the people generally was probably much less than it would otherwise have been. The Congress had to share with three or four others going on at the same time the space devoted to congresses in the papers, and the Exposition drew and held the attention of the average citizen.

But in spite of these untoward circumstances, the success of the meeting was excellent. The city authorities could hardly have been more cordial and attentive than they were. It was generally understood that they regarded the Peace Congress as of supreme importance among the many international gatherings—nearly a hundred in all—brought by the Exposition to the city. As for the local Committee on Organization, led by our distinguished and venerable co-worker, E. T. Moneta, nothing could have surpassed their fidelity, self-

sacrifice and laborious efforts to make the Congress a great agency for advancing the peace cause.

The Congress was not as large as those of the previous two years at Boston and Lucerne. But it was unusually strong in the presence of nearly all of the veteran peace leaders of the different countries—Passy, Baroness von Suttner, Ducommun, Bajer, Richter, Darby, Miss Robinson, Mrs. Lockwood, Moneta, General Türr, Dr. Clark, Fox, Perris, Fried, Dr. Richet, Arnaud, La Fontaine, Abbé Pichot, Alexander, Moscheles, Novicow, Trueblood and others. It was therefore an unusually compact and coherent body, whose members understood one another and were able to work together in harmony and mutual confidence, even where they differed strongly in opinion. Indeed, so far as we remember, never has a finer spirit prevailed in any peace congress. The moral tone was high, and the work was done in a serious, courageous spirit, conscious of the grandeur of its aim as well as of the difficulty and the delicacy of the task.

The Congress also surpassed some previous ones in the concentration of its attention upon the great subjects of the peace cause. Less time was wasted on relatively unimportant matters. There was almost no faddism. Some of the great subjects received, of course, less consideration than would have been desirable, but this was not from lack of interest, but solely from lack of time. On these subjects, however, the Congress felt as deeply and spoke as strongly as if it had had days in which to discuss them. This was particularly true of the subject of limitation of armaments, the resolutions on which did not come up till toward the end of the proceedings, when there was little time for discussion. But no other subject was as omnipresent to the minds of the delegates as this, and every reference to the initiative taken by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and the British House of Commons to bring the subject to the next Hague Conference drew forth the deep and intense feeling of the Congress in regard to it.

The discussions in general impressed us as being abler than usual. There was an unusual seriousness about them, an entire absence of playing fast and loose with subjects. We have never heard in any peace congress—and rarely elsewhere—a finer debate than that on the neutralization of ocean trade routes, introduced in an excellent speech by Senator Chamberlain of Brockton, Mass., from the